



Living By Faith

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

March 6, 2011

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..... 10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey

Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten
Cherokee Home for Children
Food Pantry
Gospel Broadcast Network
Gospel Chariot Missions
House to House, Heart to Heart
Lake Cisco Camp
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.

If Jesus Couldn't - Why Do We Think We Can?

By David Shannon

We often struggle to find ways to bring a loved one back to the Lord once they are engrossed in worldliness. We think there must be something I can say or do that will make them return. I need to learn this rule of thumb; you can't help someone until they want to be helped. Do you realize that even Jesus can't help someone who doesn't want to be helped? When Jesus talked to the rich young ruler whose possessions were separating him from God, he was told what he needed to do, but he walked away sorrowful from Jesus (Matthew 19:22). Why didn't Jesus make him turn his life around? Jesus walked with Judas, lived among him and was betrayed by him. Jesus couldn't make him do right. We are placing a huge weight upon our shoulders that we cannot bear with peace if we think it is our place to make someone change their life. We can't. If Jesus couldn't - why would I think I could?

What we can do is allow their conscience to work on them (Hebrews 10:22). We can also live right before them to allow our righteousness to serve as a reminder of God (1 Peter 3:1-2). We can leave it up to God. God promises to chastise those He loves (Hebrews 12:3-11). We can pray for them. We must balance these principles with Galatians 6:1 where we are commanded to restore an erring brother. Also, James 5:20 speaks of us turning a brother from his sin. We must make direct and prayerful efforts to restore our brothers when they fall, but we must also realize we have our limits. We can't help someone who doesn't want help. This is a time for us to do all we can and then place it in God's hands.

Perhaps you have read Isaiah 40:28-31 many times. Have you ever considered its comfort as we prayerfully wait for a loved one to return to God?

Isaiah 40:28-30 "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength (v. 29). Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall (v: 30), But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (vs. 30).

As you wait for God's chastising to prick the conscience of your loved one, pray, encourage without nagging, and mount up with wings like eagles. There is much good to do. There is much we can't do. Let's find peace with all this and walk and not faint.



My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Encouragement By Johnny Ramsey

**When we sincerely search the sacred text,
we can find myriads of reasons to hold to our Creator's unchanging hand.**

Everyone needs encouragement. In this wicked world finding the joy and happiness we all cherish is never easy. But the very God who made us has revealed in the Scriptures many reasons for Christians to find calm in the midst of stormy surroundings.

In Joshua 1:7, Jehovah promised to bless Joshua's future days with boundless benefits if that valiant leader would constantly follow in the pathway of righteousness-"turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest" (KJV). Today, when servants of God devote themselves to holiness and never swerve from the highway of godliness, these same promises hold true.

No verse has more depth of encouragement than Deuteronomy 33:27: "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them." Under the everlasting arms of our Maker, we find solace and balm for troubled hearts.

What a wondrous haven of rest we have in the security God provides. Mankind is often inept in providing the real needs of his soul. In fact, we often are our own worst enemy in seeking the wrong things. Failing to meet the challenge of spiritual growth we often wallow in the mire of shallow endeavor that demands very little of us. But, those willing to walk near to the heart of God find strength, beauty and resolve to rise to heights of loyal service in the kingdom of the Lord.

God has promised to guide us in this life and afterward receive us unto glory (Psalm 73:24)! All this and heaven, too. A three-time winner is the faithful follower of the Savior. Such a one misses hell, goes to heaven and also lives the best possible way upon this earth. What comfort the Bible holds!

It truly warms our hearts as Christians to realize that wherever we take the message of salvation, the Lord will be with us: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." When we take the great com-

mission seriously and launch out into world evangelism, we can expect the providence of God to open doors (1 Corinthians 16:9) that even adversaries cannot shut. When we work with the Savior (2 Corinthians 6:1), the demons in hell tremble.

Even "the sufferings of this present time" (Romans 8:18) cannot overwhelm us because "the Father is with us" (John 16:32). We can have boldness in living for Jesus regardless of external circumstances. When God is for us and supplies our every need (Philippians 4:19), we lead buoyant lives upon the earth. This naturally produces peace beyond human comprehension and adds vibrant hues to the panorama of our existence. No one fully enjoys all the good things of this world but those in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

Children of God live in the vibrant hope of glory based upon the surety of heaven's promise (Titus 1:2). We do not serve the Redeemer in vain. This hope serves as an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19) that propels us to higher ground. Earthly aspirations by the ungodly may prove futile as John Vanbrugh wrote nearly three centuries ago: "The want of a thing is perplexing enough; the possession of it is intolerable." But, hoping "to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13) is joy unspeakable and full of glory. These are, indeed, words of encouragement!

Yes, we are told to cast all our anxieties upon our blessed Savior because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever the burden, whenever the sorrow, wherever the obstacle, we have a Friend who will make the tribulation bearable. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6) and to keep the door of heaven wide open (Revelation 4:1) to help us "in every time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

How blessed, beyond description, are those who live and die in Jesus. To know that our heavenly Father knows and cares about our present sojourn and future destiny ought to be enough encouragement for anyone. Daniel's words sum it up mightily: "God rules in the kingdom of men" (4:17).

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB	Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).	Sunday...Numbers 14; Mark 9:1-29
In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB	Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)	Monday...Num. 15-16; Mark 9:30-50
Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org	Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)	Tuesday...Num. 17-18; Mark 10:1-31
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Wednesday...Num. 19-20; Mark 10:32-52
Radio	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Thursday...Num. 21-22; Mark 11:1-14
Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		Friday...Num. 23-24; Mark 11:15-33
		Saturday...Num.25-26; Mark 12:1-27
		<i>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)</i>

News & Notes

Wendell and Betty Winkler's Advice on Marriage

Several years ago, I asked the Winklers to pass along advice for married couples on how to have a successful, happy marriage. They were very kind to comply and I have the material, in brother Winkler's easily distinguishable handwriting, in my files. Their suggestions were broken into two categories, the first being positive things couples can do for their marriages and the latter being habits, actions, and attitudes that hurt a marriage. Here are the answers from a couple who seemed as happily married as any two people I have known (Wendell Winkler passed away in 2005).

Positive things:

1. Put your companion first.
2. Build the confidence of each other, never making the other feel inferior.
3. Maintain a beautiful togetherness [laugh, cry, plan vacations, and work together]. Walk through life together. Do not ride off in opposite directions [in interests, finance, recreation, etc.].
4. Adjust to your companion's interests [if he fishes, she learns to fish; if she loves to shop, he learns to shop].
5. Be united in your goals and aspirations [for your children, for your retirement].
6. Cooperate with each other [in disciplining your children, etc.].
7. Make your companion a partner in all things.
8. Be open, free, and uninhibited in your communication.
9. Close each day on a positive note.
10. Practice 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Things to Avoid:

1. Excessive debt.
2. "Me" and "I" syndrome instead of "we."
3. Suspicion and distrust.
4. Failure to understand what is involved in "headship" and "submission."
5. Misarranged priorities.
6. Failure to be commendatory.
7. Failure to notice and apply the little things.
8. Refusal to eliminate annoyances.
9. Failure to keep romance in the marriage [never become too old to hold hands].

This material was written down by brother Winkler on February 14, 2004. ~Neal Pollard, Daily Bread

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** evening worship services; last week 20 contacts were made.

Ladies Bible Class

The **Ladies Bible Class will not meet this week**; class will resume next week on March 16th.

Fellowship Meal

Remember this is our first Sunday fellowship meal following the morning services; we hope that whether you are a member or a visitor you will be able to stay and eat with us.

Mark The Date... There will be a Baby Shower honoring the Barnum Family as they prepare to welcome Ian Wayne. It will be in the fellowship room on April 10th at 3 PM. Invitation with more details is on the bulletin board.



Upcoming Events... (check bulletin board for flyers)

- ◆ March 6-9—Meeting at Stephenville with HD Simmons.
- ◆ Mar. 20—Bible Search at Hamilton; Vicksburg devotional
- ◆ March 20-24—Meeting at Bangs with Ronnie Hayes.
- ◆ March 27-30—Meeting at Rising Star with Darwin Hunter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

March Birthdays: Ken Maninger (04), John Green (07), Wayne Kahlich (09), Susan Ford (17), Howard King (18), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), Micahel Bickford (23), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29).

March Anniversaries: Cindy & James Fuller (02), Billie & Clarence Ford (11), Carol & Tom Wilcox (23).

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)



	Recent Records	February 20, 2011	February 27, 2011
Bible Class		58	59
AM Worship		80	75
PM Worship		54	47
Wednesday PM		46	48
Contribution		\$1680	\$1611

Privileged to Serve	03/06/11 - AM	03/06/11 - PM	03/13/11 - AM	03/13/11 - PM
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum Proverbs 4:14-19		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	March 9 Jim Moore	March 16 Don Smith	March 23 James Fuller	March 30 Ken Makuta

Studies For The Week of March 6th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 9-10)*

Wednesday Class *Zephaniah (Chap. 3)*

The Called Out (1 Pet. 2:9; Matt. 16:18)

Let us rejoice that we are a special people and act like it.

- 1. Out of the world, into the church/body** (1 John 2:15-17; John 17:14-16; Acts 2:47; Rom. 12:1-2)
- 2. Out of darkness, into light** (Matt. 4:16; John 1:4-5; John 12:46; 1 Pet. 2:9; Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:8).
- 3. Out of sin, into righteousness** (saints) (Rom. 5:21; 1 John 2:2; Rom 6;1-4, 17-18; Rom 1:7; Eph. 1:1)
- 4. Out of guilt, into relief** (Ps. 51:2; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 3:4; 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:12)
- 5. Out of death, into an abundant life** (Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1, 5, 8-10; John 10:10, 4:13; 11:25)

The calling has gone out by way of the gospel to all (2 Thess. 2:13-14; Mark 16:15-16); have you followed?

Notes: _____

Word Pictures of Sin (Continued)

*If we could see sin for what it really is, would we not abhor it?
 Consider how God describes sin:*

- 1. Putrefying Disease** from which we must be cleansed at great cost (Isa 53:5; Isa 1:6; Hosea 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 13:15; Psa 41:4); it is like leprosy that eats away at the soul.
- 2. Heavy Burden** (Ps. 38:4-6; Isa 24:20; Gal. 6:1) that we don't have to bear (Matt. 11:28-30).
- 3. Hard Taskmaster** that we don't have to serve (John 8:34; Rom. 6:6, 16-18; 2 Pet. 2:19; cf. Ex. 1:11-14)
- 4. Foolish Insanity** (Ps. 38:4-5; Num. 12:11; 1 Sam. 13:13; 2 Sam. 24:10; Luke 15:17)
- 5. Defiling Filth** (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Titus 1:15; Matt. 15:19-20) from which we must be washed (2 Cor. 7:1; James 1:21; Rev. 3:4; Rev. 7:13-14; Rev 21:27)
- 6. Binding Debt** (Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Luke 11:4; Matt. 18:23-35)
- 7. Blemishing Stain** (Psa 51:1-2, 7; Isa 1:18; Jude 1:23) that must be removed (Eph. 5:25-27; James 1:27; 2 Pet. 3:14)
- 8. Impenetrable Darkness** from which we have been called (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Matt. 8:12; 1 Jn 1:6; 2:9, 11; John 8:12; John 3:19; 1 Thess 5:4-5)

Instead of walking in sin, let us:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Living by Faith is published weekly by the
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 3201 4th St.
 Brownwood, TX 76801

Return Service Requested